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TTY USERS CALL MAINE RELAY 711

February 22, 2022

Hon. Anne Carney  
Hon. Thom Harnett  
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
State House, Room 438  
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: L.D. 1945 An Act to Regulate the Use of Biometric Identifiers

Greetings, Senator Carney, Representative Harnett,

I write in support of L.D. 1945, "An Act To Regulate The Use of Biometric Identifiers." L.D. 1945 proposes to increase the privacy protections available to our citizens by bringing to Maine safeguards proven to work in other states. The bill is based on an Illinois statute enacted in 2008, the Biometric Information Protection Act, 740 ILCS 14/1, and is similar to statutes in Washington and Texas and to legislation being considered by the Maryland legislature.

Biometric identifiers of an individual are information created by measuring that person's unique physical features, such as a fingerprint, a scan of a hand or the face, or imagery of an eye or retina. L.D. 1945 is important for the privacy of Mainers because these physical features – unlike account numbers, credit card information, or social security numbers – cannot be changed when the information is bought, sold, or stolen in a data breach. Maine citizens currently have no way of knowing what is being done with this sensitive information, who is using it, and for what purposes. L.D. 1945 would help Mainers have control over these unique identifiers so that they can decide how their personal features may be used.

L.D. 1945 establishes reasonable limits on the use, collection, and storage of biometric identifiers for commercial purposes. My office was able to discuss this legislation with the sponsor in advance of the public hearing. We appreciated the opportunity to review the proposed privacy protections and to offer our thoughts, which I understand the sponsor has taken into consideration.

I support increased privacy protections for Maine residents that enable each of us to know for what purposes our information is being used, by whom, for how long, and allow Mainers to make their own decisions about those uses. I look forward to the Committee's work session for L.D. 1945 and urge the Committee to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron M. Frey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aaron" and last name "Frey" being more prominent than the middle initial "M.".

Aaron M. Frey  
Attorney General